

## **Hotel Stevenson**

40 Davenport

Current Name: Milner Arms Apartments

Local

State

State Marker

National      ✓      9/22/97



**Hotel Stevenson**



### **Historic overview:**

The Hotel Stevenson is one of the finest examples of the design and architecture of a multiple unit residential dwellings constructed in the Cass Farm Survey area in the early twentieth century. It was built by the Davenport Realty Company circa 1915, and recognizes the important contributions of Charles Hugh Stevenson.

Apartment hotels differed from typical apartments in composition; they contained primarily efficiency and one bedroom units, as compared to the two to four-room suites offered in apartment complexes. The hotels were designed to house the increasing numbers of transient, unskilled, primarily male workers who poured into the city for work in automotive-related jobs. The Cass Farm Survey area was a prime location due to its proximity to jobs and transportation routes. The hotel was constructed in the second, more utilitarian and higher density, phase of apartment building in the Cass Farm Survey Area. The façade of the apartment hotel is the only elevation with architectural detail, as was common during this second phase.

Charles Hugh Stevenson started Davenport Realty with his father-in-law and brother. A Detroit writer and lawyer, Stevenson was internationally known for his work with the fishing and hotel industries. He received two awards from the French government in 1900 and 1909 for participation in the Paris-International Exposition and the International Hotel Convention in Paris. The awards recognized Stevenson's contribution in ensuring friendly ties between America and Europe. Stevenson was also involved in numerous local and national societies. Stevenson was vice president of the Detroit Hotel Association in the 1920s, and a well-known figure in many of the leading Detroit clubs.

